

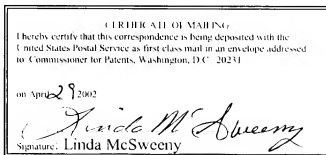


Docket No. 52790-00005USPX  
2029 24-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Stark, et al ) Group Art Unit: NOT ASSIGNED  
Serial No.: 10,018,945 ) Examiner: NOT ASSIGNED  
Filed: December 18, 2001 )  
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING A CORRUGATED TUBE HAVING A SLITTED  
OPENING THAT EXTENDS ALONG A GENERATING LINE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231



Dear Sir

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In accordance with Applicant's duty under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 1.97, Applicant hereby submits the attached form PTO-1449 (modified) which lists art cited. The art listed therein, while of some relevance, is not necessarily considered to teach or suggest any aspect of the invention described and claimed in the above-identified patent application. This statement is also not to be construed as a representation that a search has, or has not, been conducted or that no better art exists. Rather, this statement discloses only the best art of which the Applicant is aware.

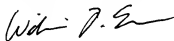
In considering the art set forth below, it may be noted by the Examiner that certain of the references may contain markings, underlinings or other notations. These markings or notations are not to be construed as drawing the Examiner's attention either to selected parts or away from other

parts of the references. Any such markings were either present on the copies of the references obtained by Applicant, or were made thereon during the study of the references by the Applicant and or his attorneys.

This information disclosure statement is submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b)(3) before the mailing of a first office action. Applicant believes no fee is due but if this is incorrect and a fee is owed the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and may be required under 37 CFR 1.97 OR credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 10-0447.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider each of the cited references, indicate such consideration by initialing each reference on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) and return a copy of the same with the next communication to the Applicant. For the convenience of the Examiner in considering the references, copies of the cited references are enclosed with this communication.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Form PTO-1449 Modified**  
**List of Patents and Publications**  
**Cited by Applicant**  
 (Use several sheets if necessary)  
 U.S. Patent Department of Commerce  
 Patent and Trademark Office

**Docket No.:**  
 52790-00005USPX

**Serial No.:**  
 10/018,945

**Applicants:**  
 Stark, et al

**Filing Date:**  
 December 18, 2001

**Group:**  
 NOT ASSIGNED

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initial |     | Document No. | Date        | Name         | Class | Subclass |
|------------------|-----|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------|----------|
|                  | A-1 | 6,323,425 B1 | 27 Nov 2001 | Hegler et al | 174   | 68 3     |
|                  | A-2 | 6,079,451    | 27 Jun 2000 | Hegler       | 138   | 121      |
|                  | A-3 | 4,986,575    | 22 Jan 1991 | Braun        | 285   | 325      |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initial |     | Document No.   | Date        | Country | Translation |                       |
|------------------|-----|----------------|-------------|---------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                  |     |                |             |         | Yes         | No                    |
|                  | B-1 | WO 98/32202    | 23 Jul 1998 | PCT     |             | X (see reference A-2) |
|                  | B-2 | WO 00/46894    | 10 Aug 2000 | PCT     |             | X (see reference A-1) |
|                  | B-3 | WO 94/11663    | 26 May 1994 | PCT     | X           |                       |
|                  | B-4 | EPO 268 869    | 1 Jun 1988  | EPO     |             | X (see reference A-3) |
|                  | B-5 | EPO 859 440 A1 | 19 Aug 1998 | EPO     |             | X                     |
|                  | B-6 | EPO 860 921 A1 | 26 Aug 1998 | EPO     | X           |                       |
|                  | B-7 | DE 3405552 A1  | 29 Aug 1985 | Germany |             | X                     |

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

|  |     |  |
|--|-----|--|
|  | C-1 | IPER, PCT/EP00/05557; Date Completed 20 September 2001 |
|--|-----|--|

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|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Date Examined:</b> | <b>Examiner:</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------|